

"Mother I have not the courage to face you in the next world. I would rather redress your wrong here." Upon this the old widow related the story of her wrong. The king punished the culprits and gave the widow much more than she had lost. When the woman expressed her satisfaction he mounted his horse and rode away.

STORY 82.

HOW MOHAMMAD THE CONQUEROR SUBMITTED TO
THE DECISION OF THE GUAZI, WHEN A GREEK
CHRISTIAN ARCHITECT WAS THE COMPLAINANT.

MOHAMMAD the conqueror took Constantinople in 1452. In order to have a look at the buildings and other curiosities of the remarkable city he made a triumphal march through it, in the course of which he came to a spot which he thought was very suitable for a Mosque. A Greek architect was called. The Sultan gave him the design and dimensions of the building to be erected and told him in plain words that the minarets of the proposed Mosque must on no account be lower than the spire of a church which stood close by. Unlimited funds were placed at the disposal of the architect and he sat to work in right earnest. In due time the Mosque was completed. The Sultan was informed, and accompanied by his courtiers he came to see the new house of worship. He admired the grandeur of the design and the exquisiteness of the finish. But by chance his eyes fell on the minarets which were lower than the spire of the church.

The Sultan thought that the architect who was Christian had acted against his plain instructions purposely out of religious prejudice and in a fit of sudden anger he ordered his hands to be cut off.